

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1(Currently amended). A computer-implemented method for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, ~~wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for automatic inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed~~, the method comprising the steps of:

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein the associations between content entities and prerequisite content entities are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored associations between content entities and prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities associated with that content entity,

and if so,

~~automatically~~ adding or removing the associated prerequisite content entities to or from the content object.

2(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

3(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

4(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

5(Previously presented). The computer-implemented method of claim 3, further comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

6(Currently amended). A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, ~~wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for automatic inclusion in the content~~

~~objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed,~~ the method comprising the steps of:

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein the associations between content entities and prerequisite content entities are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored associations between content entities and prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities associated with that content entity,

and if so,

~~automatically~~ adding or removing the associated prerequisite content entities to or from the content object.

7(Currently amended). The ~~method~~ program storage device of claim 6, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

8(Currently amended). The ~~method~~ program storage device of claim 6, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

9(Currently amended). The ~~method~~ program storage device of claim 8, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, the method further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

10(Currently amended). The ~~method~~ program storage device of claim 8, wherein the method further ~~comprises~~ comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

11(Currently amended). A system for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a content object, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the content object and stored in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, ~~wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for automatic inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed~~, the system comprising:

means for adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in the content objects for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein the associations between content entities and prerequisite content entities are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities.

means for examining the stored associations between content entities and prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities associated with that content entity, and

means for ~~automatically~~ adding or removing the associated prerequisite content entities to or from the content object.

12(Original). The system of claim 11, wherein one or more of the prerequisites are conditional.

13(Original). The system of claim 11, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules.

14(Previously presented). The system of claim 13, further comprising means for reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite.

15(Original). The system of claim 13, further comprising means for rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.